

SB 5874 - DIGEST

Finds that several regions of the state do not have reasonable access to a four-year institution of higher education.

Finds that the creation of an additional four-year institution or the conversion of an existing institution should complement the existing structure and provide additional options for students.

Directs the Washington state institute for public policy to evaluate and recommend to the legislature whether a four-year baccalaureate degree-granting institution should be created.

Requires the institute to: (1) Analyze data indicating demand for and access to four-year degrees, by geographic region; and

(2) Conduct a comprehensive review of existing estimates of state needs for specific degree programs.

Provides that, by December 1, 2005, the institute shall provide a report to the legislature and the governor recommending:

(1) The type of four-year baccalaureate degree-granting institution to be created;

(2) The location for the new institution by city and county; and

(3) A schedule for constructing and staffing the new institution. In addition, the report shall estimate the costs to establish the new institution, including, but not limited to: Land acquisition, master plan, design and construction, staffing, and number of enrollments.

Appropriates the sum of one hundred fifty thousand dollars, or as much thereof as may be necessary, from the general fund to The Evergreen State College for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2006, to carry out the purposes of this act.